



Maryland and Delaware

Media Summary

September 12, 2005

MPR-10-05

Potato Acreage Continues to Decline in Maryland and Delaware

According to a report released September 12 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, land planted in potatoes continues to decline in both Maryland and Delaware. USDA also released their September forecast for soybeans and corn. Production estimates in Maryland and Delaware remain unchanged from their August report

Maryland: Based on September 1 crop conditions, Maryland potato growers are expected to produce 850,000 hundred-weight (cwt) of potatoes in 2005, down from 1.2 million cwt in 2004. This is due to a sharp drop in acres planted, from 4,700 acres in 2004 to 3,500 acres planted in 2005. Of the 3,500 acres planted, 3,400 acres are expected to be harvested with an average yield of 250 cwt per acre. September projections for corn and soybeans remain unchanged, with 54 million bushels of corn and 17.7 million bushels of soybeans expected to be harvested in the coming months.

Delaware: Delaware potato growers are expected to produce 667,000 hundred-weight (cwt) of potatoes in 2005, down from 806,000 cwt in 2004. This is due to a decline in acres planted as well as a drop in yield. Growers planted 3,000 acres in 2005 as compared with 3,300 acres in 2004. Of the 3,000 acres planted, 2,900 acres are expected to be harvested, with an average yield of 230 cwt per acre. Projections for corn and soybeans remain unchanged from August, with 20.6 million bushels of corn and 6.8 million bushels of soybeans expected to be harvested this fall.

United States: **Corn** production is forecast at 10.6 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month but 10 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from August but 17.2 bushels below the record high last year. Forecast yields are down from the previous year in all Corn Belt States except Michigan and Wisconsin. Compared with last year, the largest yield decreases are expected in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and New Jersey. Farmers expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, down 50,000 acres from August but up 1 percent from 2004.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 9 percent from the record crop of 2004. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.6 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from August. Adequate moisture across most of the Corn Belt and the Great Plains by the end of the month was a relief for many dry areas, including most of the drought-stricken areas of Illinois and Missouri. The Delta and Southeast also received favorable moisture, maintaining good yield potential in most areas, including a record high forecast in Louisiana and a record tying forecast in South Carolina.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2004 AND 2005

| Commodity | Unit | Planted | | Harvested | | Average Yield | | Production | |
|-------------------|------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------|------|------------|--------|
| | | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Maryland | | 1,000 Acres | | | | | | 1,000 | |
| Corn ¹ | ACR | 490 | 470 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Corn Grain | BU | ---- | ---- | 425 | 400 | 153 | 135 | 65,025 | 54,000 |
| Corn Silage | TON | ---- | ---- | 60 | ---- | 20 | ---- | 1,200 | ---- |
| Soybeans | BU | 500 | 460 | 495 | 455 | 43 | 39 | 21,285 | 17,745 |
| Winter Wheat | BU | 160 | 150 | 145 | 140 | 59 | 65 | 8,555 | 9,100 |
| Barley | BU | 42 | 46 | 39 | 42 | 73 | 81 | 2,847 | 3,402 |
| All Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 215 | 200 | 2.65 | ---- | 570 | ---- |
| Alfalfa Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 40 | 40 | 3.30 | ---- | 132 | ---- |
| Other Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 175 | 160 | 2.50 | ---- | 438 | ---- |
| Potatoes, Summer | CWT | 4.7 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 260 | 250 | 1,196 | 850 |
| Peaches | TON | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Apples | LBS | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 34,100 | 30,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Delaware | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn ¹ | ACR | 160 | 160 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Corn Grain | BU | ---- | ---- | 153 | 150 | 152 | 137 | 23,256 | 20,550 |
| Corn Silage | TON | ---- | ---- | 6 | ---- | 17 | ---- | 102 | ---- |
| Soybeans | BU | 210 | 180 | 208 | 178 | 42 | 38 | 8,736 | 6,764 |
| Winter Wheat | BU | 50 | 50 | 47 | 48 | 58 | 65 | 2,726 | 3,120 |
| Barley | BU | 29 | 29 | 26 | 28 | 80 | 80 | 2,080 | 2,240 |
| All Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 14 | 15 | 2.93 | ---- | 41 | ---- |
| Alfalfa Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 6 | 6 | 3.90 | ---- | 23 | ---- |
| Other Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 8 | 9 | 2.30 | ---- | 18 | ---- |
| Potatoes, Summer | CWT | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 260 | 230 | 806 | 667 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| United States | | 1,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| Corn ¹ | ACR | 80,930 | 81,592 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Corn Grain | BU | ---- | ---- | 73,632 | 74,318 | 160 | 143 | 11,807 | 10,639 |
| Corn Silage | TON | ---- | ---- | 6,103 | ---- | 18 | ---- | 107 | ---- |
| Soybeans | BU | 75,208 | 73,103 | 73,958 | 72,184 | 43 | 40 | 3,141 | 2,856 |
| Wheat, Winter | BU | 43,350 | 41,408 | 34,462 | 34,271 | 44 | 44 | 1,499 | 1,521 |
| Barley | BU | 4,527 | 3,970 | 4,021 | 3,471 | 69 | 68 | 279 | 237 |
| All Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 61,916 | 61,723 | 2.55 | 2.47 | 158 | 150 |
| Alfalfa Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 21,707 | 22,118 | 3.47 | 3.34 | 75 | 74 |
| Other Hay | TON | ---- | ---- | 40,209 | 39,605 | 2.05 | 1.92 | 82 | 76 |
| Potatoes, Summer | CWT | 58.4 | 50.3 | 53.9 | 48.3 | 340 | 334 | 18 | 16 |
| Peaches | TON | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Apples | LBS | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 10,420 | 9,837 |

¹Acres planted is for all purposes.